



**Washington School for the Deaf**

March 27, 2009

## Middle School News

### Social Studies

Classroom Based Assessments, or CBAs, are Washington State assessments to measure ability in Social Studies. This year the 7/8 grades are performing the Dig Deep CBA. The student researches historical questions about Japanese American internment. After they ask a question they research the answer using primary and secondary sources. The final part of the assessment is an essay or presentation. The 5/6 grades will start their CBA in late April. More information about CBAs are on OSPI's website.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/>

### Writing

The 5th and 6th grade nonfiction picture books were bound and published this week. The 7th and 8th grade students each submitted a personal story to contribute to a classroom anthology. All students were rewarded with a writing celebration in each of their individual classes. We ate cupcakes, drank punch, read each others' books and stories, and gave written feedback. Some students read aloud their pieces to the class. It is important to celebrate writing, especially the finished product.

### Flying Hands Poetry Winners—Middle School



1st Place—Jonah Winninghoff

2nd Place—Patrick Saturay & Hayden Orr

3rd Place—Mariapaz Velez-Silva, Noah Tufton, & Miguel Peregrino

### Reading

We have chosen our next novels to read! **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> B** will read The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> A** will read Diary of a Wimpy Kid, book #1 by Jeff Kinney. **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> A** will read Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt. **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> B** will read Diary of a Wimpy Kid, book #1 by Jeff Kinney. We hope to start after Spring Break!

### Upcoming Events:

**Spring Vacation**  
**No School**  
**March 30-April 3**

**Arbor Day Celebration**  
**Officers' Row**  
**5/6 grades**  
**April 8**

# Tips for Parents

Another recommendation from the National Council of the Teachers of English (NCTE) on ways to support writing at home:

*- Share letters from friends and relatives. Treat such letters as special events. Urge relatives and friends to write notes and letters to your child, no matter how brief. Writing is especially rewarding when the child gets a response. When thank-you notes are in order, after a holiday especially, sit with your child and write your own notes at the same time. Writing ten letters (for ten gifts) is a heavy burden for the child; space the work and be supportive.*

\*\*\*Recommendation taken from the NCTE website, [www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org)

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## Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Write us a note and send it back with your child.

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